



Lungs in a warming world: Climate change and respiratory health

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Abstract:

Climate change is a health threat no less consequential than cigarette smoking. Increased concentrations of greenhouse gases, and especially CO₂, in the earth's atmosphere have already warmed the planet substantially, causing more severe and prolonged heat waves, temperature variability, air pollution, forest fires, droughts, and floods, all of which put respiratory health at risk. These changes in climate and air quality substantially increase respiratory morbidity and mortality for patients with common chronic lung diseases such as asthma and COPD and other serious lung diseases. Physicians have a vital role in addressing climate change, just as they did with tobacco, by communicating how climate change is a serious, but remediable, hazard to their patients.

Source: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1378/chest.12-2384>

Resource Description

Exposure :

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Air Pollution, Extreme Weather Event, Temperature, Other Exposure

Air Pollution: Ozone

Extreme Weather Event: Wildfires

Temperature: Extreme Heat

Other Exposure: GHG;CO₂;NO_x

Geographic Feature:

resource focuses on specific type of geography

None or Unspecified

Geographic Location:

resource focuses on specific location

United States

Health Impact:

Climate Change and Human Health Literature Portal

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

Morbidity/Mortality, Respiratory Effect, Other Health Impact

Respiratory Effect: Asthma, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, Interstitial Lung Disease

Other Health Impact: emergency department admissions

Medical Community Engagement: 

resource focus on how the medical community discusses or acts to address health impacts of climate change

A focus of content

Mitigation/Adaptation: 

mitigation or adaptation strategy is a focus of resource

Adaptation, Mitigation

Resource Type: 

format or standard characteristic of resource

Policy/Opinion, Review

Timescale: 

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified